DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
FOR A
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT

Contract Number: **TBD**
Caption: **NTIC – Intelligence Platform**
Contractor: **Cobwebs Technologies**
Program Agency: **Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency**

1. **Authorization:**

   D.C. Official Code Section 2-303.05(a) (1) and 27 DCMR Section 1702.1.

2. **Minimum Need**:

   The District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency management Agency (HSEMA) has a mission to provide and maintain regional situational awareness within the agency by monitoring and reporting on emerging incidents or events with regional implications or operational consequences. This include domestic or international incidents involving the nexus of terrorism; incidents or events impacting public and/or life safety, incident stabilization, property protection, protection of the environment, and coordination of resources in excess of jurisdictional resources; and providing prompt notification to regional partners through emergency messaging and reporting products on incidents or events of significant regional importance.

   HSEMA is seeking to acquire two (2) unique user licenses from Cobwebs Technologies. The purpose of this acquisition is to increase the effectiveness, efficiency, and capability of the HSEMA by leveraging new and/or emerging information technology (IT) solutions that focus specifically on public open-source media metadate. Public open-source media is rapidly becoming the first reporting mechanism for incidents and events that may be of regional significance. Social media and internet crawling capabilities for public open-source information would support the mission, operational objectives, and concept of operations for HSEMA daily operation.

3. **Period of Performance:**

   The period of performance is from Date of Award through September 30, 2021.

4. **Estimated Reasonable Cost:** $98,000.00. This amount will cover the licenses technology solution and support professional services.

5. **Facts Which Justify Sole Source Procurement:**

   A. HSEMA requires software that is easily usable and established social network connections. This software allows HSEMA to dive into the posts and threats against

the District without risk to the user. The software establishes connections and trends in posts with threatening language and helps establish a geographic location as well as possible accomplices, motives, and rhetoric.

B. HSEMA requires technology that passively scans public tweets and other public open-source media platforms for metadata related to specific incidents or events that match HSEMA's Critical Information Requirements incident types and thresholds. Cobwebs Technologies proprietary software system, Cobwebs Technologies, is designed to leverage a variety of publicly available information platforms' metadata to detect, distill, and correlate information on specific events across in real time. This ensures continued situational awareness and a comprehensive view of events, as well as ensuring collection of past transgressions.

C. As a public sector entity, HSEMA requires a software system that has access to a plurality of platforms (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.) providing a solution specifically designed for the Public-Sector, alerting first responders of breaking events and enabling fast, real-time response.

D. HSEMA requires automatic translation of alerts from a variety of languages to ensure proper situational awareness and reporting, specifically on international events that may have local consequences. First alert automatically translates certain Alerts from over 75 languages into plain English, while retaining the ability to see the original (untranslated) text of the publicly available post.

E. HSEMA personnel would need training for the specifics of the software and the ability to customize thresholds as necessary. Cobwebs Technologies provided multiple onsite trainings to staff and have customized dashboards according to HSEMA's needs during the trial period. Because staff have spent resource time to become accustomed to the software and its configuration, using new software and training personnel on it would require additional resources and time.

F. HSEMA requires the ability of a platform to have constant monitoring capabilities, which monitor of specific and credible threats against the District and our partners. Cobwebs Technologies allows its users to put up filters that ren 24/7 and capture threats while our analyst are out of the office. The technology also allows us to analyze past posts, giving us further visibility into the credibility of the threat, therefore allowing us to be better partners with our stakeholders.

G. Given the use of emojis and pictures used for nefarious messaging, HSEMA must have a platform that can reach for emojis and pictures across a multitude of platforms. Cobwebs Technologies has the ability to search for images, pictures, emojis, and symbols on the Internet. Furthermore, Cobwebs Technologies can search images for text in dozens of languages, including the top ten languages spoken in the District.

6. Certification by Agency Head:

I certify that the above findings are correct and complete.

_____   _____
Date   Dr. Christopher Rodriguez
                                              Agency Director

7. Certification by the Contracting Officer:

I have reviewed the above findings and certify that they are sufficient to justify the use of the sole source method of procurement under the cited authority. I recommend that the Chief Procurement Officer approve the use of the sole source procurement method for this proposed contract.

_____   _____
Date   Margaret T. Desper
                                              Contracting Officer

_____   _____
Date   Rick Owens
                                              Chief Contracting Officer

DETERMINATION

Based on the above findings and in accordance with the cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive bidding process under either Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; D.C. Official Code Section 2-354.02 or 2- 354.05). (D.C. Law 6-85; D.C. Official Code Section 2-303.3). Accordingly, I determine that the District is justified in using the sole source method of procurement.

_____   _____
Date   George A. Schutter III
                                              Chief Procurement Officer